

DETAILED ACTION

1. This correspondence is in response to **RESPONSE** filed on 02/10/2011.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Paul Vargo** on 12/21/2010.

- **In the Claims**, please cancel claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 14, 18, 20, 24, 26 and 30, and amend independent claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 25 and 29 as follows:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said method comprising:

the said first and second communications systems respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall, to directly communicate with each other,

wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication initiated from said external data network from reaching said second communication system; ~~said method comprising~~

establishing a first secure connection via said external data network between said first communications system and a central communications station through said first firewall, wherein said first

secure connection is initiated by said first communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said first firewall;

establishing a second secure connection via said external data network between said second communications system and said central communications station through said second firewall, wherein said second secure connection is initiated by said second communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said second firewall;

forwarding connection information for said second communications system to said first communications system via said first secure connection using said central communications station; and

transmitting data directly from said first communications system to said second communications system, wherein said data uses said connection information for said second communications system as destination information and uses connection information for said central communications station as source information, said data originating from said first communications system appearing to originate from said central communications station, wherein said connection information for said second communications system includes an Internet protocol address and port of said second communications system and wherein said connection information for said central communications station includes an Internet protocol address and port of said central communications station.

2. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said method comprising:
the said first and second communication systems, respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall and having respective associated first and second network address translation devices, to directly communicate with each other,

wherein each of said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication

initiated from an external data network from reaching said second communications system and wherein each of said first and second network address translation devices respectively provides public source information for outbound data originated from said first and second communications systems; ~~said method comprising~~

establishing a first secure connection via an external data network between said first communications system and a central communications station through said first firewall, wherein said first secure connection is initiated by said first communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said first firewall;

establishing a second secure connection via said external data network between said second communications system and said central communications station through said second firewall, wherein said second secure connection is initiated by said second communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said second firewall;

transmitting first connection information for establishing a new connection with said first communications system, said transmitting being from said first communications system to said central communications station via said first secure connection;

transmitting second connection information for establishing a new connection with said second communications system, said transmitting being from said second communications system to said central communications station via said second secure connection;

forwarding said second connection information system to said first communications system via said first secure connection using said central communications station;

transmitting a connection request from said first communications system to said second communications system wherein said connection request uses said second connection information as its second communications system destination information;

forwarding said first connection information to said second communications system via said second secure connection using said central communications station;

transmitting a connection acknowledgement and request from said second communications system to said first communications system wherein said connection acknowledgement and request uses said first connection information as first communications system destination information; and

in response to receiving said connection acknowledgement and request from said second communications system, transmitting a connection acknowledgement directly from said first communications system to said second communications system, wherein:

said first connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said first network address translation device and port for said first communications system's next connection; and said second connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said second network address translation device and port for said second communications system's next connection.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said system comprising:

a processor;

the said first and second communication systems respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall, to directly communicate with each other,

wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication initiated from said external data network from reaching said second communication system; ~~said method comprising~~

means for establishing a first secure connection via said external data network between said first communications system and a central communications station through said first firewall, wherein said first secure connection is initiated by said first communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said first firewall;

means for establishing a second secure connection via said external data network between said second communications system and said central communications station through said second firewall, wherein said second secure connection is initiated by said second communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said second firewall;

means for forwarding connection information for said second communications system to said first communications system via said first secure connection using said central communications station; and

means for transmitting data directly from said first communications system to said second communications system, wherein said data uses said connection information of-for said second communications system as destination information and uses connection information for said central communications station as source information originated said data originating from said first communications system appearing to originate from said central communications station, wherein said connection information for said second communications system includes an Internet protocol address and port of said second communications system and wherein said connection information for said central communications station includes an Internet protocol address and port of said central communications station.

8. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said system comprising:

the first and second communication systems respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall and having respective associated first and second network address translation devices, to directly communicate with each other,

wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said second communications system and wherein each of

said first and second network address translation devices respectively provides public source information for outbound data originated from said first and second communications systems; ~~said method comprising~~

means for establishing a first secure connection via an external data network between said first communications system and a central communications station through said first firewall, wherein said first secure connection is initiated by said first communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said first firewall;

means for establishing a second secure connection via said external data network between said second communications system and said central communications station through said second firewall, wherein said second secure connection is initiated by said second communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said second firewall;

means for transmitting first connection information for establishing a new connection with said first communications system, said transmitting being from said first communications system to said central communications station via said first secure connection;

means for transmitting second connection information for establishing a new connection with said second communications system, said transmitting being from said second communications system to said central communications station via said second secure connection;

means for forwarding said second connection information to said first communications system via said first secure connection using said central communications station;

means for transmitting a connection request from said first communications system to said second communications system wherein said connection request uses said second connection information second communications system destination information;

means for forwarding said first connection information to said second communications system via said second secure connection using said central communications station;

means for transmitting a connection acknowledgement and request from said second communications system to said first communications system wherein said connection acknowledgement and request uses said first connection information for as first communications system destination information; and

means for transmitting a connection acknowledgement directly from said first communications system to said second communications system in response to receiving said connection acknowledgement and request from said second communications system, wherein:

said first connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said first network address translation device and port for said first communications systems next connection; and said second connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said second network address translation device and port for said second communications system's next connection.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling two communications system, located behind firewalls, to directly communicate with each other, said system comprising:

a central communications station;

a first communications system and a second communications system, wherein each of said first and second communications system comprises a respective secure connection interface that establishes a secure connection with said central communications station via an external data network through a network access;

a first firewall and a second firewall respectively located between said external data network and said first and second communications systems, wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from said external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication initiated from said external data network from reaching said second communications system; and

said central communications station comprises:

a secure connection interface that maintains secure connections with said first and second communications systems via said external communications network through a network access, and

a secure redirector that forwards connection information for said second communications system to said first communications system via said secure connection with said first communications system

thereby enabling said first communications system to transmit data directly to said second communications system, wherein said data uses said connection information for said second communications system as destination information and uses connection information for said central communications station as source information said data originating from said first communications system appearing to originate from said central communications station, wherein said connection information for said second communications system includes an Internet protocol address and port of said second communications system and wherein said connection information for said central communications station includes an Internet protocol address and port of said central communications station.

14. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling two communications system, located behind firewalls and having associated network translation devices, to directly communicate with each other; said system comprising:

a central communications station;

a first communications system and a second communications system, wherein each of said first and second communications system comprises:

a respective secure connection interface that establishes a secure connection with said central communications station via an external data network through a network access, and

a respective transmitter that transmits first connection information for establishing a new connection with said first communications system to said central communications station via said secure connection and transmits second connection information for establishing another new connection with said second communications system to said central communications station via said secure connection;

a first firewall and a second firewall respectively located between said external data network and said first and second communications systems, wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from said external data network from reaching said first communication system and said second

firewall prevents communication initiated from said external data network from reaching said second communications system; and

a first network address translation device and a second network address translation device respectively associated with said first and second communications systems, wherein each of said first and second network address translation devices respectively provides public source information for outbound data originated from said first and second communications systems, wherein:

said central communications station comprises: a secure connection interface that maintains secure connections with said first and second communications systems via said external communications network through a network access, and

a secure redirector that:

forwards said second connection information to said first communications system via said secure connection with said first communications system thereby enabling said first communications system to transmit a connection request to said second communications system wherein said connection request uses said second connection information as second communications system destination information, and

forwards said first connection information to said second communications system via said secure connection with said second communications system, thereby:

enabling said second communications system to transmit a connection acknowledgement and request from said second communications system to said first communications system wherein said connection acknowledgement and request uses said first connection information as first communications system destination information, and enabling said first communications system to transmit a connection acknowledgement directly from said first communications system to said second communications system, wherein:

said first connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said first network address translation device and port for said first communications system's next connection; and said second connection information said second connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said second network address translation device and port for said second communications system's next connection.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A central communications station for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said central communications station comprising:

a processor;

the first and second communication systems respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall, to directly communicate with each other, wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said second communications system; ~~said method comprising:~~

means for maintaining a first secure connection with said first communications system via said external data network through said first firewall, wherein said first secure connection is initiated by said first communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said first firewall;

means for maintaining a second secure connection with said second communications system via said external data network through said second firewall, wherein said second secure connection is initiated by said second communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said second firewall; and

means for forwarding connection information for said second communications system to said first communications system via said first secure connection thereby enabling said first communications system to transmit data to said second communications system, wherein said data uses said connection information of-for said second communications system as its destination information and uses connection information for said central communications station as source information, said data originating from said first communications system appearing to originate from said central communications station, wherein said connection information for said second communications system includes an Internet protocol address and port of said second communications system and wherein

said connection information for said central communications station includes an Internet protocol address and port of said central communications station.

20. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A central communications station for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said central communications station comprising:
the first and second communication systems respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall and having respective associated first and second network address translation devices, to directly communicate with each other, wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said second communications system and wherein each of said first and second network address translation devices respectively provides public source information for outbound data originated from said first and second communications system; ~~said central communications station comprising:~~

means for maintaining a first secure connection via an external data network with said first communications system through said first firewall, wherein said first secure connection is initiated by said first communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said first firewall;

means for maintaining a second secure connection via said external data network with said second communications system through said second firewall, wherein said second secure connection is initiated by said second communications system thereby being allowed to pass through said second firewall;

means for obtaining first connection information for establishing anew connection with said first communications system from said first communications systems via said first secure connection;

means for obtaining second connection information for establishing another new connection with said second communications system from said second communications system via said second secure connection;

means for forwarding said second connection information to said first communications system via said first secure connection thereby enabling said first communications system to transmit a connection request to said second communications system, wherein said connection request uses said second connection information as second communications system destination information; and

means for forwarding said first connection information system to said second communications system via said second secure connection, thereby:

enabling said second communications system to transmit a connection acknowledgement and request to said first communications system wherein said connection acknowledgement and request uses said first connection information system as first communications system destination information, and

enabling said first communications system to transmit a connection acknowledgement directly to said second communications system in response to receiving said connection acknowledgement and request from said second communications system, wherein:

said first connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said first network address translation device and port for said first communications system's next connection; and said second connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said second network address translation device and port for said second communications system's next connection.

23. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A central communications station for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said central communications station comprising:
said first and second communication systems respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall to directly communicate with each other, wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said second communications system; ~~said central communications station comprising:~~

a secure connection interface that maintains secure connections with said first and second communications systems through a network access to said external communications network; and

a secure redirector that forwards connection information of said second communications system to said first communications system via said secure connection with said first communications system thereby enabling said first communications system to transmit data directly to said second communications system, wherein said data uses said connection information for said second communications system as destination information and uses connection information for said central communications station as source information, said data originating from said first communications system appearing to originate from said central communications station, wherein said connection information for said second communications system includes an Internet protocol address and port of said second communications system and wherein said connection information for said central communications station includes an Internet protocol address and port of said central communications station.

26. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A central communications station for enabling a first communications system and a second communications system, said central communications station comprising:
said first and second communication systems respectively located behind a first firewall and a second firewall and having respective associated first and second network address translation devices, to directly communicate with each other, wherein said first firewall prevents communication initiated from an external data network from reaching said first communications system and said second firewall prevents communications initiated from an external data network from reaching said second communications system and wherein each of said first and second network address translation devices respectively provides public source information for outbound data originated from said first and second communications systems; ~~said central communications station comprising:~~

a secure connection interface that maintains secure connections with said first and second communications systems via said external communications network through a network access; and

a secure redirector that:

forwards second connection information for establishing a new connection with said second communications system to said first communications system via said secure connection with said first communications system thereby enabling said first communications system to transmit a connection request to said second communications system wherein said connection request uses said connection information second communications system destination information, and

forwards first connection information for establishing a new connection with said first communications system to said second communications system via said secure connection with said second communications system, thereby:

enabling said second communications system to transmit a connection acknowledgement and request from said second communications system to said first communications system wherein said connection acknowledgement and request uses said first connection information as first communications system destination information, and

enabling said first communications system to transmit a connection acknowledgement directly from said first communications system to said second communications system, wherein:

said first connection information ~~for~~ includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said first network address translation device and port for said first communications system's next connection; and said second connection information includes a public Internet protocol address provided by said second network address translation device and port for said second communications system's next connection.

30. (Cancelled)

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-11, 13, 15-17, 19, 21-23, 25 and 27-29 are allowed.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: On 01/03/2011, an Ex parte Quayle Office Action was mailed to applicant indicating that the above claims as being allowed. However, the abstract and the specification of this application were objected by the examiner. Applicant has filed an abstract that commences on a separate sheet and corrected drawings replacing the earlier filed drawings. Therefore, the objections to the abstract and drawings are withdrawn. The reasons for allowance can be found in the Ex parte Quayle office action; and the above claims hereby are allowed as indicated on the prior office action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **AMARE TABOR** whose telephone number is (571)270-3155. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **KAMBIZ ZAND** can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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